(b) if so, what are the details of the financial help given to the shipping companies during the 1984-85;

(c) whether it is a fact that the financial assistance has been given in a haphazard manner which has resulted in mushroom growth of private companies without the necessary skill and reserves; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to regulate the financial assistance being given to the shipping companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Loan assistance totalling Rs. 28.55 crores was disbursed to shipping companies during 1984-85 by SDFC.

(c) No, Sir. Financial assistance to private shipping companies is given only after thorough examination of the proposal of the company by the Shipping Development Fund Committee, and Director General of Shipping which is discussed in detail in the meeting of Shipping Development Fund Committee. The recommendation of SDFC is then examined in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and Ministry of Finance before final Sanction is issued. The appraisal made by Director General, Shipping and Executive Director S.D.F.C. covers the aspects about the managerial skill available in the shipping company and also the financial structure of the company. There has been no mushroom growth of private shipping companies as the fact whether a company entering shipping business for the first time should be allowed to do so or not, is also looked into.

(d) The financial assistance to be given to shipping companies is regulated by provisions of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Shipping Development Fund Committee Rules. A committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Transport) has reviewed the arrangements for assistance to shipping companies. No decision has been taken by Government on these recommendations.

A/C Chair Cars in Vaigai Express and Pallavan Express

142. SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to attach A/C Chair car in the Vaigai Express and the Pallavan Express trains running between Madurai and Madras;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Non-availability of Metre-Gauge A.C. Chair car coaches.

Amount allotted to States for Flood Control

143. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to each State to meet the flood situation during the current year; and

(b) The special measures taken by the Central Government to prevent floods in the different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Flood protection schemes are formulated, funded and executed by the State Governments from their plan resources. Central assistance is given to the State Plan on a whole and is not tied to any sector of activity or project. Central Government has set up an extensive flood forecasting network with 145 flood forecasting stations in the inter-State flood-prone-basins of the country.

New Welfare Schemes for Women

144. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes proposed to be launched by Government for the welfare of women in the country during the current financial year;

(b) whether Government propose to make education free and compulsory for women; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Information is being collected.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Education is formulating a scheme for reimbursement of tuition fees for girls in classes IX to XII to the States and Union Territories beginning from the current financial year 1985-86. Education of girls upto class VIII is already free in most of the Government schools, local body and private (aided) schools in the country.

Assurance by DTC Chairman in Pushp Vihar Welfare Association regarding DTC routes

145. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Delhi Transport Corporation, in a meeting with the representative of the Pushp Vihar Sector III (Type II) Welfare Association on the 15th May, 1985 had assured that the D.T.C. will introduce two new routes between the Government Colony, Pushp Vihar, Sector III and New Delhi Railway Station and also Inter-State Bus Terminus and during the peak hours in the morning it will run two special trips on route No. 526 for the Kendriya Terminal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no action has so far been taken on these assurances; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not taking any action in the matter so far and by when the said assurances are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) On 15th May, 1985, a representative of the Association handed over a representation dated 22-3-1985, to the Chairman, D.T.C. However, neither any meeting with the representatives of the Association was held nor any assurance given.

(c) The Association in their representation has asked for introduction of two routes, one from Pushp Vihar Sector III to Central Secretariat and the other from Pushp Vihar Sector III to I.S.B.T. The matter has been examined by D.T.C. and it was found that Pushp Vihar Sector III is already connected with Central Sectt. by the services of routes No. 526 and